

# POLITICAL SCIENCE 104: ENLIGHTENMENT POLITICAL THOUGHT

Marquette University  
Spring 2008, MW 2:25-3:40, WW 138

Professor Ryan Hanley

Office: WW 419; 288-3420; [ryan.hanley@marquette.edu](mailto:ryan.hanley@marquette.edu)  
Office Hours: M-Th 3:45-4:45 and by appointment

**Course Description:** Capitalism, constitutionalism, individualism, pluralism and religious freedom: our contemporary understanding of each of these fundamental doctrines of contemporary liberalism is the direct product of the political thought of the Enlightenment. Through sustained engagement with the principal texts of Enlightenment political thought, students will be introduced to the original arguments for and debates over such concepts as equality, freedom, constitutional government, scientific progress, free enterprise and religious toleration, as well as the conceptions of human nature and human excellence on which these arguments were founded. Also, through careful study of selected contemporary critiques of Enlightenment we will explore the political, cultural and religious traditions that the Enlightenment challenged as well as the possible consequences of its legacy.

**Attendance and Expectations:** Attendance at every meeting is expected; repeated absences will result in your expulsion from the course. But students are expected to do more than simply show up; adequate preparation prior to each class and active participation in class are also necessary if one hopes to master the material and receive a high grade. While preparing for class you should read assignments with the maximum possible care; prior to each meeting I will distribute a list of study questions to help focus your preparation. In class you are expected to listen carefully to the contributions of your colleagues and to engage them through your own contributions. Those inexperienced in or uncomfortable with talking in class are encouraged to come to see me early in the semester so that we can together develop useful strategies for effective participation.

**Requirements and Grading:** The final grade will be comprised of four components: class participation (25%), an in-class presentation (25%), a 5-page paper due at midterm (20%), and an 8-10 page paper due at the end of term (30%). Please note that this means that the quality of your class participation can affect your final grade in either an upward or downward direction. As the course proceeds we will discuss the standards by which your written work, in-class presentation, and class participation will be evaluated. Finally: late assignments will not be accepted unless I authorize an extension in advance.

**Texts:** The following required texts are available at BookMarq; these editions are strongly suggested.

Hume, *Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals*, ed. Beauchamp (Oxford, 1998)  
Hume, *Essays, Moral, Political and Literary*, ed. Miller (Liberty Fund, 1985)  
Madison, Hamilton and Jay, *The Federalist*, ed. Carey (Liberty Fund, 2001)  
Rousseau, *Discourses and Other Early Political Writings*, tr. Gourevitch (Cambridge, 1997)  
Rousseau, *Social Contract and Other Later Political Writings*, tr. Gourevitch (Cambridge, 1997)  
Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, ed. Canavan (Liberty Fund, 1999)

In addition to readings from these texts, the schedule below also includes selections from several other works. All readings listed below that are not drawn from the texts above can be found on D2L. These readings are required, and not optional. Please read them prior to each week's Monday meeting, and please also print out a hard copy of these selections that you can bring to our meetings.

**Schedule of Reading and Written Assignments:** The following schedule is unlikely to change, but please know that I reserve the right to amend it if necessary. Also note the irregularities in our meetings in weeks 8 and 13. Information on these sessions will be forthcoming.

Week 1 of January 14: The Spirit of Enlightenment

M: Introduction

W: Kant, "What Is Enlightenment?"; Diderot, "Encyclopedia"; Pope, *Essay on Man* (all D2L)

#### Week 2 of January 21: Reason and Sentiment

Mandeville, *Fable of the Bees* ("Enquiry into the Origin of Moral Virtue")

Hutcheson, *Third Treatise* ("General Account of Our Several Senses and Desires")

Smith, *Theory of Moral Sentiments* ("Of Sympathy" and "Of Licentious Systems")

M: NO CLASS: MLK DAY

W: Hume, *Second Enquiry*, ch. 1-4 and App. 1-2 (pp. 73-103; 157-69)

#### Week 3 of January 28: Human Nature and Virtue

Kant, *Groundwork to the Metaphysics of Morals* (Part II: "Transition to Metaphysics of Morals")

Bentham, *Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation* (Ch. 1: "Of Principle of Utility")

M: Hume, *Second Enquiry*, ch. 5-6 and App. 3 (pp. 104-130; 170-75)

W: Hume, *Second Enquiry*, ch.7-9 and App. 4 (pp. 131-56; 176-84)

#### Week 4 of February 4: Commerce and Civilization

Addison and Steele, *The Spectator* (No. 69, 19 May 1711; No. 450, 6 August 1712)

Voltaire, *Philosophical Letters* and *Philosophical Dictionary* ("Worldling"; "Commerce"; "Luxury")

Montesquieu, *Spirit of the Laws* (Book XX: "On the Laws in Their Relation to Commerce")

M: Hume, *Essays*, I.I; I.X-XII; I.XVIII (pp. 3-9; 73-96; 159-80)

W: Hume, *Essays*, I.XIV, II.I-II (pp. 111-38; 253-280)

#### Week 5 of February 11: Science and the Science of Man

Bacon, *Novum Organum* (Book I, Aphorisms 1-44)

Newton, *Principia Mathematica* ("Rules of Reasoning")

Hume, *Treatise of Human Nature* (Advertisement and Introduction)

M: Hume, *Essays*, I.III-VI; II.XVI (pp. 14-46; 512-29)

W: Publius, *Federalist* #1-7, 9-10 (pp. 1-31; 37-49)

#### Week 6 of February 18: Constitutional Government

Montesquieu, *Spirit of the Laws* (Book XI, ch. 1-6: Liberty and the English Constitution)

Smith, *Wealth of Nations* (V.i.g: "Of the Expense of Institutions for Instruction of All Ages")

M: Publius, *Federalist* #14-15, 23-28, 37-39 (pp. 62-75; 112-39; 179-99)

W: Publius, *Federalist* #46-51, 62-63, 70-72, 78 (pp. 242-72; 362-78; 401-408)

#### Week 7 of February 25: Science and Progress

Condorcet, *Sketch of the Historical Progress of the Human Mind* (X: "Future Progress")

D'Alembert, *Preliminary Discourse to the Encyclopédie* (Part II: Bacon, Descartes and Newton)

Swift, *Gulliver's Travels* (Part III, ch. 5: The Academy of Lagado)

M: Rousseau, *First Discourse*, Part I (pp. 3-15)

W: Rousseau, *First Discourse*, Part II (pp. 16-28)

**PAPER #1 DUE IN CLASS ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27**

Week 8 of March 3: City Living

Defoe, *Some Considerations on Streetwalkers* (selections TBD)  
Mandeville, *Modest Defense of Public Stems* (selections TBD)

M: SEMINAR AT HAGGERTY MUSEUM: HOGARTH EXHIBITION  
W: Rousseau, *Second Discourse*, Epistle Dedicatory and Preface (pp. 114-28)

Week 9 of March 10: Savagery and Civilization

Diderot, *Supplement to Bougainville's Voyage* (Part Two: "The Old Man's Farewell")  
Fénelon, *Telemachus* (chs. 7 and 17: Bétique and Salente)  
Montesquieu, *Persian Letters* (Letters 10-14 and 105-106: the Troglodytes and the Parisians)

M: Rousseau, *Second Discourse*, Exordium and Part I, 1-31 (pp. 141-49)  
W: Rousseau, *Second Discourse*, Part I, 32-53 (pp. 149-60)

Spring/Easter Break: March 13-24

Week 10 of March 24: Wealth and Corruption

Smith, *Theory of Moral Sentiments* (IV.1: "Of the Effect of Utility")  
Smith, *Wealth of Nations* (I.i: "Of the Division of Labor")

M: NO CLASS – SPRING/EASTER BREAK  
W: Rousseau, *Second Discourse*, Part II, 1-32 (pp. 161-73)

Week 11 of March 31: Wealth and Corruption

Ferguson, *Essay on Civil Society* (Part IV: "Of the Consequences from Advancement of Arts")  
Smith, *Wealth of Nations* (V.i.f: "Of the Expense of Institutions for the Education of Youth")

M: Rousseau, *Second Discourse*, Part II, 33-58 (173-88)  
W: Rousseau, *Political Economy*, 1-36 (pp. 3-21)

Week 12 of April 7: Freedom

Constant, *Liberty of the Ancients Compared with the Moderns*  
Smith, *Theory of Moral Sentiments* (VI.ii.2: The Man of System)  
Smith, *Wealth of Nations* (I.ii: Self-Love and Exchange)

M: Rousseau, *Political Economy*, 37-78 (pp. 21-38)  
W: Rousseau, *Social Contract*, Book I (pp. 39-56)

Week 13 of April 14: Equality

*Declaration of Independence*  
*Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen*  
Beaumarchais, *The Marriage of Figaro* (Act V: Figaro's Soliloquy)

M: Mozart, *Marriage of Figaro* (time and location of viewing TBD)  
W: Mozart, *Marriage of Figaro* (time and location of viewing TBD)

Week 14 of April 21: Revolution

Paine, *Rights of Man* (selections from Part I)

Wollstonecraft, *Vindication of the Rights of Men*  
De Maistre, *Considerations on France* (Ch. 4: “Can the French Republic Last?”)

M: Burke, *Reflections*, pp. 87-127  
W: Burke, *Reflections*, pp. 127-167

Week 15 of April 28: Christianity

Gibbon, *Decline and Fall* (Ch. 15: “The Progress of the Christian Religion”)  
Voltaire, *Treatise on Tolerance* (Ch. 1: “Brief Account of the Death of Jean Calas”)

M: Burke, *Reflections*, pp. 167-214  
W: Burke, *Reflections*, pp. 255-263; 272-278; 326-332; 355-365